

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-191-C - ORDER NO. 97-450
MAY 22, 1997

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IN RE: Pond Branch Telephone Company - Revisions to) ORDER
its General Subscriber Service Tariff to)
Comply with FCC Orders.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Motion to Conduct Investigation and for an Accounting Order, filed in conjunction with a Petition to Intervene filed in this Docket by the South Carolina Public Communications Association (SCPCA). A response to the Motion was filed by the South Carolina Telephone Coalition (SCTC).

Members of SCTC had filed revisions to their General Subscriber/Custom Tariffs to comply with FCC Order Nos. 96-388 and 96-439 in CC Docket Nos. 96-128 and 91-35 regarding pay telephone matters. SCPCA then proceeded to file their Motion as stated above.

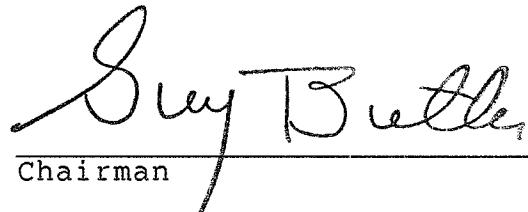
SCPCA alleges that the various rates submitted by SCTC members were not tariffed at cost-based rate levels, that PTAS rates were discriminatory, that the availability of Dial Around compensation was questionable, and other general and specific allegations. SCTC's response averred that the tariff revisions filed were in full compliance with the FCC Orders, among other things.

We have examined in full the proposed tariff revisions by SCTC members, the Motions of SCPCA, and SCTC's responses. Accordingly, we must conclude that all subsidies have been removed with SCTC member filings, that the rates proposed are non-discriminatory, and that all local exchange carriers (LEC's) who are members of SCTC are entitled to receive Dial Around compensation.

For all LEC's who are members of SCTC whose rate is based on a percentage of the B-1 rate plus a message charge, or if the rate is flat-rated at one and a half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) times the B-1 rate or less, the Motions of SCPCA must be denied, and said tariffs are approved. However, as to other LEC members of SCTC, such other members must furnish further cost data to support the rates in the tariff, or said rates must be reduced to one and a half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) times the B-1 rate or less, or rates may be refiled as a percentage of the B-1 rate plus a message charge. All other relief sought by SCPCA must be denied, since it is non-meritorious.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)